AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-38   (Cancelled)

39.   (Currently amended)   A method in a base station for processing a call from a first subscriber unit to a second subscriber unit, comprising:

receiving a request from the first subscriber unit to make a call to the second subscriber unit;

determining if the second subscriber unit incorporates vocoding techniques that are compatible with the first subscriber unit by generating an information request message that returns the signal processing capabilities of the second subscriber unit;

routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit without devocoding if the first and second subscriber units have compatible vocoding techniques; and   ,

devocoding data packets from the first subscriber unit and transmitting the devocoded data packets to the second subscriber unit if the first and second subscriber units do not have compatible vocoding techniques.

40.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit comprises converting the vocoded data packets into tones.

41.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first subscriber unit and the second subscriber unit are compatible and are part of a CDMA system.

42.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the first subscriber unit is a cellular telephone.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit without devocoding comprises transmitting a binary copy of the vocoder data packets across a PSTN line.

45   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein transmitting a binary copy of the vocoder data packets comprises pulse-code modulating the vocoder data packets.

46.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for processing a call received by a first subscriber unit from a second subscriber unit, comprising:

        a call control processor configured to receive information indicating whether the second subscriber unit incorporates vocoding techniques that are compatible with the first subscriber unit by generating an information request message that returns the signal processing capabilities of the second subscriber unit; and

        a service options element configured to receive a binary copy of vocoded data packets from the second subscriber unit and transmit the binary copy of the vocoder data packets to the first subscriber unit when the second subscriber unit incorporates compatible vocoding techniques,

        wherein the service options element is further configured to receive devocoded voice information from the second subscriber unit when the second subscriber unit does not incorporate compatible vocoding techniques, and wherein the service options element converts the devocoded voice information into compatible vocoded data packets for transmission to the first subscriber unit.

47.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 46, wherein the call control processor is configured to receive information from a PSTN.

48.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 46, wherein the call control processor is configured to receive information from an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

49.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for processing a telephone call from a first subscriber unit to a second subscriber unit, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request from the first subscriber unit to make a call to the second subscriber unit;

means for determining if the second subscriber unit incorporates vocoding techniques that are compatible with the first subscriber unit by generating an information request message that returns the signal processing capabilities of the second subscriber unit;

means for routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit without devocoding if the first and second subscriber units have compatible vocoding techniques; and

means for devocoding data packets from the first subscriber unit and transmitting the devocoded data packets to the second subscriber unit if the first and second subscriber units do not have compatible vocoding techniques.

50.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 49, wherein the means for routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit comprises a service options element configured to convert the vocoded data packets into tones.

51.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 49, wherein the first subscriber unit and the second subscriber unit are compatible and are part of a CDMA system.

52.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 49, wherein the first subscriber unit is a cellular telephone.

53.   (Canceled)

54.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 49, wherein the means for routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit comprises means for signaling to the second wireless system that the vocoded data will be transmitted in tones.

55.   (Currently amended) A memory storing a computer program that, when executed, causes a computer to perform the acts of:

receiving a request from the first subscriber unit to make a call to the second subscriber unit;

determining if the second subscriber unit incorporates vocoding techniques that are compatible with the first subscriber unit by generating an information request message that returns the signal processing capabilities of the second subscriber unit;

routing vocoded data packets from the first subscriber unit to the second subscriber unit without devocoding if the first and second subscriber units have compatible vocoding techniques; and

devocoding data packets from the first subscriber unit and transmitting the devocoded data packets to the second subscriber unit if the first and second subscriber units do not have compatible vocoding techniques.